

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3 and 6.

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable heater for aquaria, comprising a substantially tubular container within which are housed an electrical heating element, a switch comprising fixed contacts and moving contacts capable of electrically connecting the said heating element to an outside source of electrical power, a temperature sensor having a bi-metal strip capable of detecting the temperature of the liquid and interacting with the said switch to move it from a closed position to an open position when a predetermined temperature is reached, wherein the moving contacts of the switch are secured to a free end of the bi-metal strip, the other end of the bi-metal strip being electrically insulated so as to prevent current from passing through it, said heating element comprising at least one electrical resistance having a first terminal directly connected to a first conductor of a supply cable from the source of electrical power and a second terminal which can be connected to a second conductor of the said supply cable through said switch, wherein the other end of the said strip is anchored to a supporting frame through an elastic connecting member, adjustment means being provided which act on the elastic connecting member to vary the preloading on the latter and position the free end of bi-metal strip, and escapement means for maintaining the fixed and moving contacts in a mutually connected condition.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim-3 1, wherein the moving contacts are mounted on a connecting plate which is in turn anchored to the free end of the bi-metal strip.

5. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim ~~3~~1, wherein the fixed contacts of the switch are connected respectively to the second supply cable and the second terminal of the at least one resistance, the pair of fixed contacts being in a position facing the pair of moving contacts (9, 10).

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim ~~6~~1, wherein the elastic connecting member has a portion substantially transverse to the plane of the extension of the bi-metal strip for connection to the bi-metal strip and a portion substantially parallel to the plane of extension of the bi-metal strip for anchoring to the frame.

8. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 7, comprising adjustment means acting on said substantially transverse portion of the elastic connecting member to vary the stiffness of the bi-metal strip and the position of its free end, and therefore of the pair of moving contacts with respect to the pair of fixed contacts.

9. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 8, wherein the adjustment means comprises a threaded pin acting on the transverse portion of the elastic connecting member and which can be screwed into a seat having a matching thread in a fixed support.

10. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 9, wherein the threaded pin is connected to a knob projecting from the container and provided with a graduated thermometric scale which can be compared with a fixed indicator associated with the container.

11. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 10, wherein the knob is connected to the threaded pin through a small shaft which passes through the container.

12. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 11, comprising means for calibrating the temperature means acting on the small shaft to vary the angular position of the knob with respect to the threaded pin so as to adjust the temperature set on the thermometric scale to that effectively measured by an external reference thermometer.

13. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 12, wherein the said calibration means comprises an adjustment ratchet (28) housed in a seat in the knob rigidly connected to the small shaft and selectively connected to the knob in predetermined angular positions by means of a variable keying connecting member.

14. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 13, wherein the variable keying connecting member comprises a toothed crown which can be engaged by a tooth formed along the upper edge of the seat.

15. (Currently Amended) The heater according to Claim ~~13~~ 1, ~~comprising wherein the escapement means includes a magnet~~ magnetic means proximate to the free end of the bi-metal strip to keep the moving and fixed contact means stably in a connecting position.

16. (Previously Presented) The heater according to Claim 1, including means for visually indicating the position of the switch, comprising a lamp or luminous diode connected in parallel to the electrical heating element.

Please add the following new claim.

17. (New) An adjustable heater for aquaria, comprising
- a tubular container;
 - an electrical heating element located in the tubular container;

a switch comprising a pair of spaced apart fixed contacts, one contact being coupled to the heating element and the other being connectable to a power source; and

electrically connected moving contacts each for engaging a corresponding one of the fixed contacts to thereby electrically connect the said heating element to the power source the proximate end of the bi-metal strip being electrically insulated to prevent current from the moveable contacts to flow through passing through it a temperature sensor having a bi-metal strip having a proximate end and free end carrying the movable contacts and being capable of detecting the temperature of the liquid and interacting with the said switch to move the moveable contacts from a normally closed position in engagement with the fixed contacts to an open position out of contact therewith when a predetermined temperature is reached;

an adjustment device for preloading the proximate end of the bi-metal strip; and

an escapement for securing the fixed and moveable contacts together in the normally closed position.